

OLC 71-0989  
20 September 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with William Woodruff, Senate Appropriations  
Committee Staff, Re Agency Program in Laos

1. This afternoon Ed Braswell, Senate Armed Services Committee staff, said he had not sent a copy of Stennis' letter to the President on the above subject to Bill Woodruff but planned to do so and he said we were free to discuss the general problem with Woodruff.

2. Woodruff was familiar with the tenor of the letter, which had been discussed with him in draft, and when I raised the matter with him he made the following points:

a. While he appreciates Senator Stennis' problem in handling the funding of Laos operations in the Agency budget, he's not convinced we can find a viable alternative.

b. Personally, he feels strongly that the United States simply can't afford to let Laos go down the drain, but this is what will happen if the responsibility for running the war there is turned over to Defense or the Laotians.

c. If the cost of supporting the Laotian irregulars is to be [redacted] passed to CIA as the executive agency, special accounting procedures will have to be worked out, [redacted]

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CRC, 10/07/2003

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25X6 e. The way to really get CIA out of financing the operations in Laos, or get us out of Laos entirely, if that's what we want, would be the way it was done in the case of the RDC--to have the chairmen of our appropriations committees specifically state in their budget letters that none of these funds are to be used for financing the irregulars [redacted] in Laos.

3. In response to my question Woodruff said he was not reflecting the views of Senator Ellender but was speaking only for himself and that he thought Senator Ellender would do whatever the Director wanted him to do. He added that we didn't know how lucky we were having Ellender completely in our corner.

25X1 4. In concluding Woodruff concurred in my suggestion that as a next step we might set up a meeting at Headquarters where Woodruff and Preston could come out and chew the problem over with Colonel White, Ex. Dir., [redacted] John Warner, OGC, and me. I said I'd pass this on to Colonel White.

25X1 [redacted]  
[redacted] JOHN M. MAURY  
Legislative Counsel

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